

THE CLAIMS defining the invention are as follows:-

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1. A support means for supporting a support platform from a fixed base whereby the support platform is movable between a first position at least partially below the fixed base and a second position in front of the fixed base, said support means comprising a first element adapted to be mounted to the support platform, a second element adapted to be affixed to said fixed base, a pair of linkage elements each pivotally fixed at one end to said first element at spaced intervals on said first element and each pivotally mounted at the other end to said second element at spaced locations spaced on said second element to enable movement of the support platform between the first and second positions whereby throughout such movement the attitude of said support platform remains substantially constant, said support means further comprising a locking means for locking said support platform in a range of positions including said second position, said locking means comprising a first locking member supported on one of said linkage elements and having a first engagement face engagable with a second engagement face provided on a second locking member provided on another of said elements said locking members being relatively moveable between a released position at which the engagable faces are disengaged to allow movement of said support platform relative to said base and a plurality of locking positions at which the engagement faces are engaged to retain said second element relative to said first element in one of ~~said range of positions~~

2. A support means as claimed at claim 1 wherein the locking members are gravitationally biased into locking engagement with each other.

3. A support means as claimed at claim 1 wherein one of the locking members is serrated.

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4. A support means as claimed at claim 2 wherein one of the locking members is serrated.

5. A support means as claimed at claim 1 wherein locking members are adapted to be frictionally interengagable when engaged with each other.

6. A support means as claimed at claim 2 wherein the locking members are adapted to be frictionally interengagable when engaged with each other.

7. A support means as claimed at claim 1 wherein second locking member is fixed, said first locking member being provided with an operating handle which requires manipulation to effect disengagement between the locking members, said first locking member being gravitationally biased into engagement with said second locking member.

8. A support means as claimed at claim 1 wherein the first locking member is fixed and said second locking member is movable, said second locking member being associated with a support member having a handle which on manipulation will effect disengagement between the pawl member and said locking members, said support member being biased by the influence of gravity such that said locking members are engaged in the locking position.

9. A support means as claimed at claim 1 wherein the pivotal connection of one link element to one of said first and second elements is displaceable longitudinally from the pivotal connection of the one link element with the other of said elements such longitudinal displacement being effective to move said locking members between their released and locked positions.

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~~8~~ 10. A support means as claimed at claim ~~9~~⁷ wherein said one link member is telescopic in length.

~~9~~ 11. A support means as claimed at claim ~~8~~⁷ wherein the pivotal mounting of the one link element to the first element is provided by an elliptical or elongate aperture in one element and a pivot pin of the other element which is slidably and pivotally received in the elliptical or elongate slot.

~~10~~ 12. A support means as claimed at claim 1 wherein said second element comprises a first portion interconnecting the other end of the link elements and a second portion pivotally supported from the first portion and supporting one of the locking members.

13. A support means as claimed at claim 9 wherein the one locking member is affixed to the one link element.

14. A support means as claimed at claim 13 wherein the other locking member is fixed to one of the first and second elements.

15. A support means as claimed at claim 14 wherein the one of the first and second elements comprises the element to which the longitudinally displaceable pivotal connection is provided.

16. A support means as claimed at claim 2 wherein the first locking member is fixed and said second locking member is movable, said second locking member being associated with a support member having a handle which on manipulation will effect disengagement between the pawl member and said locking members.

17. A support means as claimed at claim 2 wherein the pivotal connection of one link element to one of said first

and second elements is displaceable longitudinally from the pivotal connection of the one link element with the other of said elements such longitudinal displacement being effective to move said locking members between their released and locked positions.

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~~18.~~ A support means as claimed at claim ~~17~~¹¹ wherein said one link member is telescopic in length.

~~13.~~ A support means as claimed at claim ~~17~~¹¹ wherein the pivotal mounting of the one link element to the first element is provided by an elliptical or elongate aperture in one element and a pivot pin of the other element slidably received in the elliptical or elongate slot.

⁹⁸
20. A support means as claimed at claim 2 wherein said second element comprises a first portion interconnecting the other end of the link elements and a second portion pivotally supported from the first portion and supporting one of the locking members.

21. A support means as claimed at claim 17 wherein the one locking member is affixed to the one link element.

~~22. A support means as claimed at claim 21 wherein the other locking member is fixed to one of the first and second elements.~~

23. A support means as claimed at claim 22 wherein the one of the first and second elements comprises the element to which the longitudinally displaceable pivotal connection is ~~provided.~~

⁹⁵
24. A support means as claimed at claim 4 wherein the pivotal connection of one link element to one of said first and second elements is displaceable longitudinally from the pivotal connection of the one link element with the other

of said elements such longitudinal displacement being effective to move said locking members between their released and locked positions.

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~~25.~~¹⁷ A support means as claimed at claim ~~24~~¹⁶ wherein said one link member is telescopic in length.

~~26.~~¹⁸ A support means as claimed at claim ~~24~~¹⁶ wherein the pivotal mounting of the one link element to the first element is provided by an elliptical or elongate aperture in one element and a pivot pin of the other element slidably received in the elliptical or elongate slot.

27. A support means as claimed at claim 24 wherein the one locking member is affixed to the one link element.

28. A support means as claimed at claim 27 wherein the other locking member is fixed to one of the first and second elements.

29. A support means as claimed at claim 28 wherein the one of the first and second elements comprises the element to which the longitudinally displaceable pivotal connection is ~~provided.~~

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~~30.~~ A support means as claimed at claim 6 wherein the pivotal connection of one link element to one of said first and second elements is displaceable longitudinally from the pivotal connection of the one link element with the other of said elements such longitudinal displacement being effective to move said locking members between their released and locked positions.

~~31.~~²⁹ A support means as claimed at claim ~~30~~²⁹ wherein said one link member is telescopic in length.

²¹
~~32.~~ A support means as claimed at claim ~~30~~¹⁹ wherein the pivotal mounting of the one link element to the first element is provided by an elliptical or elongate aperture in one element and a pivot pin of the other element slidably received in the elliptical or elongate slot.

33. A support means as claimed at claim 30 wherein the one locking member is affixed to the one link element.

34. A support means as claimed at claim 33 wherein the other locking member is fixed to one of the first and second elements.

35. A support means as claimed at claim 34 wherein the one of the first and second elements comprises the element to which the longitudinally displaceable pivotal connection is ~~provided.~~

²²
~~36.~~ A support means as claimed at claim 6 wherein the one engagement face has a convex V-shaped profile and the other engagement face has a concave V-shaped profile.

²³
~~37.~~ A support means as claimed at claim ~~36~~²² wherein the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the one face is less than the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the other face.

²⁴
~~38.~~ A support means as claimed at claim ~~37~~¹¹ wherein the one engagement face has a convex V-shaped profile and the other engagement face has a concave V-shaped profile.

²⁵
~~39.~~ A support means as claimed at claim ~~38~~²⁴ wherein the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the one face is less than the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the other face.

a ²⁶~~40~~. A support means as claimed at claim ⁵~~17~~ wherein the one engagement face has a convex V-shaped profile and the other engagement face has a concave V-shaped profile.

²⁷~~41~~. A support means as claimed at claim ²⁶~~40~~ wherein the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the one face is less than the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the other face.

²⁸~~42~~. A support means as claimed at claim ¹³~~19~~ wherein the one engagement face has a convex V-shaped profile and the other engagement face has a concave V-shaped profile.

²⁹~~43~~. A support means as claimed at claim ²⁸~~42~~ wherein the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the one face is less than the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the other face.

³⁰~~44~~. A support means as claimed at claim ¹⁹~~30~~ wherein the one engagement face has a convex V-shaped profile and the other engagement face has a concave V-shaped profile.

³¹~~45~~. A support means as claimed at claim ³⁰~~44~~ wherein the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the one face is less than the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the other face.

³²~~46~~. A support means as claimed at claim ²¹~~32~~ wherein the one engagement face has a convex V-shaped profile and the other engagement face has a concave V-shaped profile.

³³~~47~~. A support means as claimed at claim ³²~~46~~ wherein the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the one face is less than the divergence of the V-shaped profile of the other face.

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